

Response filed February 14, 2006

Reply to OA dated November 23, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 11 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer as to their subject matter. The applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated November 23, 2005.

Claims 2-10, 12, and 13 are currently pending. Claims 2, 3, 12, and 13 are currently being considered. Claims 4-10 have been withdrawn from consideration.

The Examiner indicated that claims 2, 3, 12, and 13 are allowed.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over USP 5,356,259 (Hanamoto).

Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over Hanamoto in view of USP 4,332,517 (Igarashi).

As noted above, claims 1 and 11 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer as to their subject matter.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections should be withdrawn.

Also, the drawings (Figure 5) have been corrected. Specifically, "Em<Em1", "YES" and "NO" shown in the step 7 correspond with details disclosed in the applicant's specification (page 28, lines 10 - 19); i.e., "YES" represents that Em is smaller than EM1 and proceeding to the step 8, and "NO" shows that Em is equal to or more than Em1 and proceeding to the step 10.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/814,099

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The above amendments are believed to place the claims in proper condition for examination.

Early and favorable action is awaited.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, all claims currently being considered are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS,
HANSON & BROOKS, LLP



Mel R. Quintos
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 31,898

MRQ/lrj

Atty. Docket No. 010270

Suite 1000

1725 K Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20006

(202) 659-2930



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: Replacement Sheet of Drawing (Fig. 5)
Annotated Sheet of Drawing (Fig. 5)